

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application in light of the above amendments and following comments is respectfully requested.

Independent claim 1 has been amended so as to distinguish over the cited and applied prior art references. It is respectfully submitted that independent claim 1 and the claims which depend therefrom patentably define over the art of record for the reasons set forth hereinbelow.

In accordance with the present invention as set forth in amended independent claim 1, the operation window is placed such that it extends both in the cylindrical body portion, and in the tapered distal end portion. Morinaga, in contrast, discloses the cut-out window in the cylindrical portion only, quite remote from the conical end. Furthermore, it is clear that the amended claim cannot be rejected over the Fiore reference as the (slightly conical) body does not have a window but is open at the end thereof.

There are particular advantages associated with the location of the window in accordance with amended independent claim 1. These advantages are clearly described in paragraphs [0025] and [0026] of the instant application.

In light of the foregoing, it is submitted that all of the claims as pending patentably define over the art of record and an early indication of same is respectfully requested.

An earnest and thorough attempt has been made by the undersigned to resolve the outstanding issues in this case and place same in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or feels that a telephone or personal interview would be helpful in resolving any outstanding issues which remain in

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this application after consideration of this amendment, the Examiner is courteously invited to telephone the undersigned and the same would be gratefully appreciated.

It is submitted that the claims as amended herein patentably define over the art relied on by the Examiner and early allowance of same is courteously solicited.

If any fees are required in connection with this case, it is respectfully requested that they be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-0184.

Respectfully submitted,

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